

**SPECIAL MEETING  
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN  
(PUBLIC PARTICIPATION)**

**September 4, 2007**

**7:00 PM**

Mayor Guinta called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll. There were fourteen Aldermen present.

Present: Aldermen Roy, Gatsas, Long (arrived late), Duval, Osborne, Pinard,  
O'Neil, Lopez, Shea, DeVries, Garrity, Smith, Thibault, Forest.

Mayor Guinta advised that the purpose of the special meeting is to give residents of Manchester the opportunity to address the Board on items of concern affecting the community; that each person will be given only one opportunity to speak; that comments shall be limited to three minutes if everybody could keep it to three minutes because we're going to go probably beyond the half hour so I want to give everyone the opportunity to speak but when the Clerk calls 2.5 and then 3 minutes if you could stop at 3 minutes so we can get to the next person to allow all participants the opportunity to speak and any comments must be directed to the Chair. Mayor Guinta requested that any resident wishing to speak come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized, and give their comments.

Katherine Gatsas, 568 Island Pond Road, Manchester, NH stated:

I'm here tonight to protest against Frank Guinta's hiring practices at the Manchester Fire Department. Frank Guinta denies women equal employment opportunity at the Manchester Fire Department. Women have a right to earn money, Mayor Guinta, to feed their children and to keep a roof over their children's heads. Deputy Fire Chief David Albin says there are zero female firefighters employed at the Manchester Fire Department. Two hundred and thirty five (235) male firefighters, zero female firefighters...two years ago when you took office you promised us civil rights would be ensured to every citizen in this community and you have broken that promise. To view David Albin's letter please visit my website [www.kgatsas.com](http://www.kgatsas.com). Frank Guinta is a proven lawbreaker and every citizens in this community should know that. Stop Frank Guinta from violating women's civil rights. On September 18<sup>th</sup> please go to the polls and vote. I am a candidate for Manchester's Mayor and I promise guaranteed constitutionally equality for all people something that Frank Guinta refuses to deliver to the women of this community.

Paul Searles, 3 Dow Street #7, Manchester, NH (Re: Valley Cemetery) stated:

The Valley Cemetery Arboretum is the oldest cemetery and park in the City, it covers almost 20 acres of peaceful natural habitat, there's a resting-place for some of the most imaginative dedicated people who were strong visionaries who are the backbone of this City. Because the cemetery or burial plots were mostly filled there was no reason to continue to keep supporting it, it fell to disrepair in 1953 and stayed that way for 54 years. It became a lost portion of our history...we need to understand that this history's a strong foundation that bond that gives the citizens a reason to stay and grow. I truly believe that the Valley Cemetery Arboretum is an important place to start. In the center of the grounds is an area that is nestled between the hills, shaded on the hillsides by a large falling tree, shrubs, wild flowers and supports a variety of small mammals and birds. I often refer to this area as our "central park" of Manchester and lots of people agree with me. We need to form a campaign to entice our citizens to visit this historic landmark and continue to keep creating the history that was started back in 1840. In the valley area entertainment could be organized for spring, summer and fall by tapping into the resources of our local colleges, theater groups, musicians and just simply having a movie night once-a-week for the local citizens of the surrounding area which would be entertaining and affordable. Example...having a movie night there showing family style movies, charging a family say \$5.00...a family of four \$5.00 to enter, renting spaces from small local vendors to sell food and refreshments. The City tombs could be utilized as storage place for the electrical and sound equipment, etc. With the monies created it could pay for the cost of operations and hopefully a small amount more to help maintain the area. This could take some of the burden off Parks and Recreation Department. This could also expand into outdoor concerts, plays, Civil War reenactments, renaissance theaters and so on. The possibilities are endless. There are over 450 trees in the park which are a lifesaver for our environment. With a City that produces 93,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas annually they filtrate and restore air we breath. This arboretum maintains a supreme balance ecosystem for this whole area of the City. By maintaining the Valley Street Cemetery Arboretum we are sending a strong positive message that as the largest City of northern New England we are doing our part toward the fight of global warming. During the times of the year when there aren't enough going on hundreds of local citizens can leisurely stroll through the park and cemetery jogging, walking their dogs, studying nature and history...just relaxing from the fast pace and sights and sounds of the City. Mayor you declared this year the year of the neighborhood. I sincerely believe that the Valley Cemetery Arboretum is an important place to start. In conclusion I find it difficult that City officials and other citizens haven't focused on this area more seriously. I believe it is one of the City's most valuable resources and assets and definitely needs to be focused on more vigorously. Thank you.

Liz Feliciano, 1414 Elm Street, Manchester, NH (Re: Halfway House)stated:

I'm opposing the halfway house on the corner of Elm and Langdon...it's 1490 to 1492. I'm not opposing the fact of having another halfway house it's just the location. Right now two

of the buildings that I manage are right abutting to that property and we have 68 units and in those 68 units we have over a hundred children. We have one school bus alone that comes from Webster Elementary to pick up our kids and I think there's about 25 or 28 that get on that one bus right at that corner where that it. Like I said I'm not opposed to having the halfway house it's the location. We have too many children that are outside and there's not real playground so most of them are on Elm Street, some are out back and there are too many kids to account for. I'm not saying that they don't need to live, that they don't deserve a second chance, I just don't think that it's in the right place in this part of Manchester abutting a property that has so many things around with children. There's also a community health center that's right across...the Health Department where we constantly have tons of children coming in and out with their parents on a daily basis...sometimes there are evening meetings as well...whether it be a community meeting or police meeting and you have so many children in that area. I don't know exactly how many inmates they're planning to put in there but either way it's such a small building I think they wanted to put in 20-25 I'm not sure but that is way too many in that small little corner around so many children. Like I said if they pick and choose somewhere else in Manchester I think it would be fine it's just that the location that it's at it's terrible to have too many children around...anything can happen...we have children of all ages. We have anywhere from babies to 18 year olds and like I said that is a corner where the bus stops just ahead of there for the junior high students and for the elementary school kids right in front of that building...location, location, location...that should not be the location. Anywhere else in Manchester...someplace that is not near so many children I understand that businesses probably don't want them around but where it is going to be put is not a good idea. Once again, my name is Liz Feliciano...I manage the properties abutting and the City has lots of needs. At this moment we do not need that halfway house on that corner. Thank you so much.

Glenn R. J. Ouellette, 112 Auburn Street, Manchester, NH (Re: Halfway House) stated: You know it's an election year and I have to wonder where is our leadership. A federal housing that I thought we had already solved that issue. Why is it that the City of Nashua was able to tell the federal government that they did not want that federal housing in their city and they've been met the line. This is the third time in a year-and-a-half that I've come to this Board for the same reason. Why is it that our leadership don't count, what is Nashua doing that we're not doing? Issue two why is Nashua receiving three million dollars a year from our federal government to educate refugee students in Nashua when since 1981 when they first started bringing in refugees in this state they have not received one and they refuse to receive them. Are we receiving three million dollars since we're getting about 82% of all refugees in this state? I'm not against refugees because I think they add a lot to our community but I believe we're getting something like 700 refugees in the next few weeks...isn't that a bit too much at one time? We had a crisis in our rents a couple of years ago because of that is that going to happen again? Issue three...in July this Board was issued a favorable decision by the courts, which you had 40 days to clean up Blaine Street. I just came from there. The only thing I've seen the City or someone do is put a blue tarp...now

you can't even see...the kids are going out and I know for a fact because I filmed it last March and it's going to reair on my show this week at 4 PM in Channel 23 what was aired in March and I'm going back to reshow what's there day-to-day. The only thing you'll find different is the tarp and they'll be no snow on the ground. For those of you who heard last January in Massachusetts...a can exploded and took blocks of houses with them. I know for a fact that if you were to drop a fire match you could lose quite a few blocks...there are gas tanks in there, tons of vehicles, there are empty tractor trailers...there's even containers of propane gas. For 30 years you've obviously found the money to go to court and you couldn't find the \$40,000 to clean it up after all the judge did say he had the court back. Where is the leadership. And, the last issue is the debates. Why is it that the leaders of our City refuse to debate the public and if they do they insist that they do not want to have any questions asked from the public unless they are already told...that's not leadership...that's called government control...that's not the kind of leadership I'm looking for in my City. Thank you.

Grace Mattern, 4 So. State Street, Concord, NH stated:

I'm the Executive Director of the NH Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence. The Coalition is a statewide network of 14 programs that provide direct services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking and here in Manchester you have the YWCA Crisis Service, which is the busiest crisis center in the state. We serve about 15,000 individuals a year mostly victims and I'm here to talk about a potentially pending City ordinance to restrict where sex offenders can live. In 2006 the Coalition served over 750 victim's survivors of sexual assaults and you do see this issue from the victim point of view and I'm here on behalf of victims of sexual abuse. According to a recent New Hampshire Violence Against Women's survey we found that those who reported that they had been sexually assaulted 41% of the most recent sexual assaults had occurred before the victims 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. So we know that many of the sexual assaults that happen in this state and across the country happen to children and only 2.3% of those who had been sexually assaulted in our survey were sexually assaulted by someone who was a stranger. Most sexual assaults happen by an acquaintance, a family member, a friend...someone that the victim knows. We've been following the recent discussions about a potential City ordinance to restricts where sex offenders can live and you may be surprised that our Coalition would be opposing such ordinances but we oppose them because we believe they are not in the best interest of victims, we believe they actually create a false sense of safety and research from other states have passed such ordinances have shown that sex offenders become non-compliant with registering and then can't be tracked by law enforcement any longer and can't be properly monitored. In Oklahoma offenders found themselves banned from living in most residential areas and according to an *Associated Press* article within four months nearly 200 offenders were non-compliant with offender registration laws. So they become invisible to the police, they can no longer be properly monitored. In Iowa a state law prohibited offenders from living within 2,000 feet of schools and childcare centers and since the enactment of that law the number of non-compliant offenders in Iowa has doubled. Iowa

prosecutors have complained about the law as being detrimental to the state because offenders are living in the communities but you don't know where they are and they're working to change the law. The best thing for children and the best way to keep children safe is to have offenders registered and supervised and the kind of ordinance that's being looked at here in Manchester would only run offenders underground and make them more of a danger to our community. That doesn't even bring up the issue of enforcement. Ordinances like this are almost impossible to enforce and use police resources in ways that aren't to the best effective victims and are in the way that we see it. I would be willing to come back to talk to the City Council about this in depth at any point. We have a lot of research and information on the best ways to manage sex offenders in the community and I also encourage you to reach out to the YWCA Crisis Service if you ever have any questions about programming for victims. I do have a letter here which I assume there's somebody here that I should give it to to distribute to the Aldermen and the Mayor and thank you very much for your time.

Maureen Molly Lee Sherman, Manchester, NH (Re: Bricks on Elm Street) stated:

I want to talk about the bricks put down on Elm Street last year, the year before...a lot of them are starting to come up and it's becoming hazardous to walk on Elm Street and also the construction. Some of the sidewalks have been worked on but they're not finished like the one on the corner of Hanover and Chestnut Street. It's got two places there that haven't been finished all summer and you can walk along and not even see the ditch right in there and you could fall on that. A lot of places throughout the City the sidewalks aren't done...Concord Street near Elm near where the bowling alley used to be right near Margarita's and I'm wondering why they haven't been done yet...haven't been done all summer. Thank you.

Calum McNeil, Manchester, NH (Re: parking) stated:

I'm running for Alderman in Ward 7 against Mr. Shea I think he's a wonderful man I just think it's a time for change...it's an unpaid position and I'm sorry I'm talking so fast I'm very nervous here guys. I'm here to just challenge Mr. Guinta I think that the policies are just the tip of the iceberg really. If you think of his whole management system it's been a system of mismanagement. We have the parking mismanagement, the management of the education system here, the development mismanagement right down from the local developers all the way down to our New York interests who are just pulling out of Pandora and all the other buildings. Head of parking...Brandy's doing a great job but before that you had all tickets with a 4.5-year plan before we break even on that ticketing purchase. I don't know if you were all part of that...a 138-page report that we have. What this parking director has done is she's created a crisis in the downtown area parking which is pushed everything into the Millyard. This whole push to the Millyard is directly justified to building four parking garages. Now everyone knows that those four garages aren't necessary...one or two are definitely necessary...two are kind of being crammed down the throat of Manchester. Please do you research on this it's not really something to check out too deeply but it does need to be something that's checked out. I'm really nervous here I'm sorry

guys...anyway I've talked to Frank Guinta many times and he's very hard to get in touch with...I've been to the office three times, I haven't gotten an e-mail back from you or a telephone call...I really haven't received anything. I tried to get in touch with all the Board here and really nobody's gotten back in touch with me...I've been to all of their houses and left notes at your houses...I tried to get in touch through e-mails...no one's gotten in touch with me. I talked to Mr. Shea he's been very helpful, he's talked to be a couple of times but again I think we need some new blood in the City. Is anybody else concerned about Iraq and the whole false flag operations that's going on in the world...all you teachers out there. I'm not sure if you guys have ever been on You Tube at all but if you take You Tube it really opens your eyes on what's really going on. You guys are really all part of the education system...check it out, why not. Education's not bad for anybody, education's good for everyone. Why not take that onto yourselves and check that information out. Everyone knows about Tonkin Bay...everyone here has talked about it, it's not a big deal. We really should get over this and start moving on...changes really need to happen and I hope everything happens. Everyone get out and vote Frank Guinta out of office he really does not represent Manchester...seven years here doesn't represent New Hampshire do not vote this man in vote for Joe Kelly, vote for Jane Beaulieu, vote for Gatsas, vote for anybody else but don't vote for Frank and whoever wins the primary I really don't care...I really truly don't. But please don't vote for Frank in the real election I cannot empower anybody else more than that...you really need to not only vote your national elections and vote for your president because that stuff is very important but vote for your selectmen, vote for your clerk, vote for who you believe is going to do the best job. If you think these guys do the best job and can do the best job vote for them. At the Master Plan meeting there's one man who's writing all the reports for a Master Plan...our last Master Plan was 10 years and one man Mr. MacKenzie is writing all of the reports...not one of your guys is there I don't think...I haven't seen anybody there. I love going to that meeting it's downstairs, it's a very important meeting and nobody is going. Why are we not involving the businesses of our community in that meeting...same results in Manchester...UNH, Southern NH University...why are they not involved...I can't understand how this Board is not creating a better Manchester for everyone. I thank you Mayor I'm sorry for being so honest with you I really tried to get in touch with you about these things.

Billy Dodd, Manchester, NH stated:

Even I can't follow that one. I started coming here back late winter and here we are another summer has come and gone and still the City has not done anything about noise enforcement for loud exhausts. My understanding is in meeting with one of the Deputy Chief's that you have two decibel meters but neither one of them are certified, they're in the process of doing that. Why it hasn't been done long before summer got here I don't know but we accepted a \$200,000 federal grant to get a new APC for the Police Department and we gave a perfectly good one that we have to Concord and they could use it and this is again suppose to be the year of the neighborhoods and noise enforcement...Mr. Duval they had the one day enforcement that we talked about at your meeting and I believe the article in the paper said

there were 100 speeding tickets given out...no mention about where they were given out at or anything about noise enforcement. I don't know what's going on there but maybe we could do something. Last Sunday, August 26<sup>th</sup> there was a motorcycle ride to benefit the Manchester PD officers that have been killed in the line of duty...being a former police officer all in favor of that...bikes had to pay a fee and then things went a little nuts. There was something like close to 300 bikes and I bet you when they came past my house at least 25% of them were illegal in noise not to mention the high handle bars, not to mention the erratic riding on the wrong side of the road waving people over to get out of the way, not to mention some of the motorcycle cops doing the same thing. That little parade left a lot to be desired...maybe somebody ought to look into that one. Article in the paper this past Sunday...the business and pleasure of rebuilding downtown. There was a gentleman in there from the High Tech Council in Concord that said it wants to be...speaking about Manchester...more of a tech city it wants to be...nothing about manufacturing. This Board is constantly and I've said it before rezoned industrial land to commercial...Harvey Industries is the prime example. Several years ago they came in and wanted to get rezoned while they were still building and it was done and now they're gone and they're going to rebuild...everything is changing. Someone had an article in the paper today...one of the other papers about using MCTV for English language learning...that's an innovative idea. I know six to eight years ago when I ran for Alderman...when I used to run in Ward 6 I ran into a lot of teachers that spent money out of their own pockets to augment supplies in their classrooms and from what I see here of all the T-shirts I would assume the process is still going on yet the School budget keeps going up. Now I noticed while I was waiting to speak there was one teacher back over here in the corner that was working on a school project as she sits here and listens...that's a dedicated teacher but she's probably bought those supplies out of her own pocket. If the School budget goes up some of the teachers...they shouldn't have to buy supplies out of their own pockets. Thank you.

There being no one else present wishing to speak, on motion of Alderman Pinard, duly seconded by Alderman Long, it was voted to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written documentation presented

There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion of Alderman Thibault, duly seconded by Alderman smith, it was voted to adjourn.

A true Record. Attest

City Clerk